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5 a) input means for inputting variable length packet data including packet length information indicative of a packet length and encoded information data, and identification flag information for identifying said packet length information;

c) packet generating means for generating said variable length packet data into fixed length packet data in accordance with an output of said judgment means, and transmitting the fixed length packet data.

20 clock reference information generating means for
generating clock reference information for use in a
time reference during decoding of said encoded
information data,

wherein said packet generating means transmits at
25 least one fixed length packet data provided with the
clock reference information generated by said clock
reference information generating means within a

ed time interval.

a apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said program specific information generating means generates program specific information for a packet specific of a packet to be transmitted, and said packet generating means generates a fixed length packet data provided with said program specific information generated by said program specific information generating means within said time interval.

a apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said means inputs a plurality of fixed length packet data.

a apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said packet generating means transmits the packet data provided with said clock reference information, when no effective fixed length packet data is received.

a apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said packet generating means transmits the packet data provided with said program specific information, when no effective fixed length packet data is received.

5 program specific information generating means for
generating program specific information indicative of a
program specific of a packet to be transmitted,

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is present.

7. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
said variable length packet data is Packetized
5 Elementary Stream (PES) conforming to ISO/IEC 13818-1,
and said fixed length packet data is Transport Stream
(TS) conforming to ISO/IEC 13818-1.

8. An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein
10 said clock reference information is Program Clock
Reference (PCR) conforming to ISO/IEC 13818-1.

9. An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein
said program specific information is Program Specific
15 Information (PSI) conforming to ISO/IEC 13818-1.

10. An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein
said information data is image data, and is encoded in
conformity with ISO/IEC 13818-2.

20 11. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
said packet generating means inserts a stuffing byte
when the code length of said variable length packet
data is less than the code length which can be inserted
25 to said fixed length packet data.

12. An information processing apparatus

comprising:

a) encoding means for encoding information data, generating variable length packet data including packet length information indicative of a packet length and
5 generating identification flag information for identifying said packet length information; and

b) converting means for distinguishing the packet length information included in said packet data in accordance with the identification flag information
10 generated by said encoding means, judging the packet length of said variable length packet data, and converting said variable length packet data to fixed length packet data,

wherein said encoding means is connected to said
15 converting means via at least a data bus for transmitting said variable length packet data and a flag bus for transmitting said identification flag information.

20 13. An apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said encoding means comprises clock reference information generating means for generating clock reference information for use in a time reference during decoding of said encoded information data, and
25 said encoding means is connected to said converting means via a clock reference bus for transmitting said clock reference information.

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- a) first generating means for generating variable length packet data including encoded information data;
- b) second generating means for generating and transmitting fixed length packet data from said variable length packet data generated by said first generating means; and

c) generating means for generating clock reference information for use in a time reference during decoding of said encoded information data,

5 wherein said second generating means generates the fixed length packet data including said clock reference information and transmits the fixed length packet data within a predetermined time interval, and transmits the fixed length packet data including said clock reference information when there is no effective fixed length
10 packet data.

19. An apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said variable length packet data is Packetized Elementary Stream (PES) conforming to ISO/IEC 13818-1,
15 and said fixed length packet data is Transport Stream (TS) conforming to ISO/IEC 13818-1.

20. An apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said clock reference information is Program Clock
20 Reference (PCR) conforming to ISO/IEC 13818-1.

21. An apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said information data is image data, and is encoded in conformity with ISO/IEC 13818-2.
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22. An information processing apparatus comprising:

a) first generating means for generating variable length packet data including encoded information data;

b) second generating means for generating and transmitting fixed length packet data from said variable length packet data generated by said first generating means; and

c) generating means for generating program specific information indicative of a program specific of said fixed length packet data,

wherein said second generating means generates the fixed length packet data including said program specific information and transmits the fixed length packet data within a predetermined time interval, and transmits the fixed length packet data including said program specific information when there is no effective fixed length packet data.

23. An apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said variable length packet data is Packetized Elementary Stream (PES) conforming to ISO/IEC 13818-1, and said fixed length packet data is Transport Stream (TS) conforming to ISO/IEC 13818-1.

24. An apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said program specific information is Program Specific Information (PSI) conforming to ISO/IEC 13818-1.

25. An apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said information data is image data, and is encoded in conformity with ISO/IEC 13818-2.

5 26. An information processing method comprising the steps of:

 inputting variable length packet data including packet length information indicative of a packet length and encoded information data, and identification flag information for identifying said packet length information;

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 distinguishing the packet length information included in said packet data in accordance with said identification flag information, and judging the packet length of said packet data; and

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 generating said variable length packet data into fixed length packet data in accordance with said judgment result and transmitting the fixed length packet data.

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27. An information processing method comprising the steps of:

 generating variable length packet data including encoded information data;

25 generating and transmitting fixed length packet data from said generated variable length packet data; and

generating clock reference information for use in
a time reference during decoding of said encoded
information data,

wherein said fixed length packet generating step
5 includes a step of generating the fixed length packet
data including said clock reference information and
transmitting the fixed length packet data within a
predetermined time interval, and a step of transmitting
the fixed length packet data including said clock
10 reference information when there is no effective fixed
length packet data.

28. An information processing method comprising
the steps of:

15 generating variable length packet data including
encoded information data;

generating and transmitting fixed length packet
data from said generated variable length packet data;
and

20 generating program specific information indicative
of a program specific of said fixed length packet data,

wherein said fixed length packet data generating
step includes a step of generating the fixed length
packet data including said program specific information
25 and a step of transmitting the fixed length packet data
within a predetermined time interval, and a step of
transmitting the fixed length packet data including

29. A storage medium in which an information
5 processing program according to claim 26 is stored and
which can be read by a computer.

31. A storage medium in which an information processing program according to claim 28 is stored and which can be read by a computer.